

Message Text

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QUOTE

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SUBJECT: SOVIET OIL MINISTER LAUDS PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 12765; (B) MOSCOW A-383

1. USSR MINISTER OF OIL INDUSTRY SHASHIN, IN A TASS INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER 17, CONFIRMED THAT USSR OIL PRODUCTION WILL REACH
490 MILLION TONS IN 1975. (COMMENT: THOUGH NOT
SPECIFIED EMBASSY ASSUMES THIS FIGURE INCLUDES FIELD CON-
DENSATE. END COMMENT) ANNUAL OIL OUTPUT AT END OF NINTH FIVE-
YEAR PLAN (1971-75) WILL BE ABOUT 140 MILLION TONS MORE THAN
TOTAL IN LAST YEAR OF PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR PLAN. TOTAL SOVIET FUEL-ENER
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RESOURCES WILL HAVE INCREASED BY 65-70 MILLION TONS OF CONVENTIONAL FUEL A YEAR DURING 1971-75 WITH OIL INDUSTRY ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN 55 PERCENT OF INCREMENT.

2. SHASHIN CITED ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF OIL DEPOSITS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW LARGE OIL PRODUCING CENTERS IN WESTERN SIBERIA, BYELORUSSIA, AND UDMURTIA (VOLGA REGION) AS MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING NINTH PLAN. MORE THAN 180 MILLION TONS OF OIL ARE NOW PRODUCED THERE ANNUALLY. DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN SIBERIAN OIL DEPOSITS IS SUCCESSFULLY UNDERWAY WITH MORE THAN 10 BILLION RUBLES ALLOCATED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL AND ENERGY IN REGION IN CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. OIL OUTPUT IN MANGYSHLAK PENINSULA AND NORTH KAZAKHSTAN DOUBLED OVER FIVE YEAR PERIOD AND DEVELOPMENT OF OIL DEPOSITS HAS BEGUN IN KOMI AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC AND ARKHANGELSK REGION NORTH OF EUROPEAN PART OF USSR.

3. COMMENT: MINISTER SHASHIN'S REPORT ON CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOVIET OIL INDUSTRY FILLS OUT HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS (REFS A AND B) DETAILING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS DURING TENTH PLAN (1976-80) AND CALLING ATTENTION TO CERTAIN SHORTCOMINGS IN OIL EQUIPMENT PRODUCTION. ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING NINTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN OIL PRODUCTION WILL LIKELY RECEIVE CONTINUING COVERAGE IN COMING MONTHS AS CENTRAL PRESS FEATURES OVERALL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ADVANCES DURING CURRENT PLAN. PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED BY SHASHIN, HOWEVER, PROVIDE USEFUL COUNTERWEIGHT WITH WHICH TO BALANCE CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS.

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